

## Michigan Heat-Related Illness, Emergency Department Visits: July 8, 2013

### **Executive Summary**

There were a total of 185 visits due to dehydration, sun-associated complaints, and heat-associated complaints that occurred during the week of June 30 to July 6, 2013, for an average of 26.4 visits per day. This represents a 31.99% decrease from the previous week. All regions in Michigan experienced a decrease in visits due to dehydration, sun-associated complaints, and heat-associated complaints with the exception of Regions 1 and 8 (see Figure 6). To date in 2013, Michigan has not experienced a significant increase in overall heat-related illnesses as temperatures have gradually increased (see Figures 1, 2). Heat-associated and sun-associated complaints remain elevated but are slightly lower this week compared to the previous week (see Figures 4, 5, 7). The weekly age-distribution of heat-related illnesses indicated all age groups were within normal variation during the week of June 30 to July 6, 2013 (see Figure 3).

### **Description of the Data**

Heat-related emergency department (ED) visits were identified using the Michigan Syndromic Surveillance System which gathers data from participating hospital emergency departments across the state. "Heat-related illness" complaints are defined as daily ED visits with the primary complaints of: "hyperthermia" "heat", "sun", "prostration", or "dehydration" (including word derivatives and misspellings). Terms that have been identified in the search, but do not indicate heat-related illness, such as "wheat", are excluded.

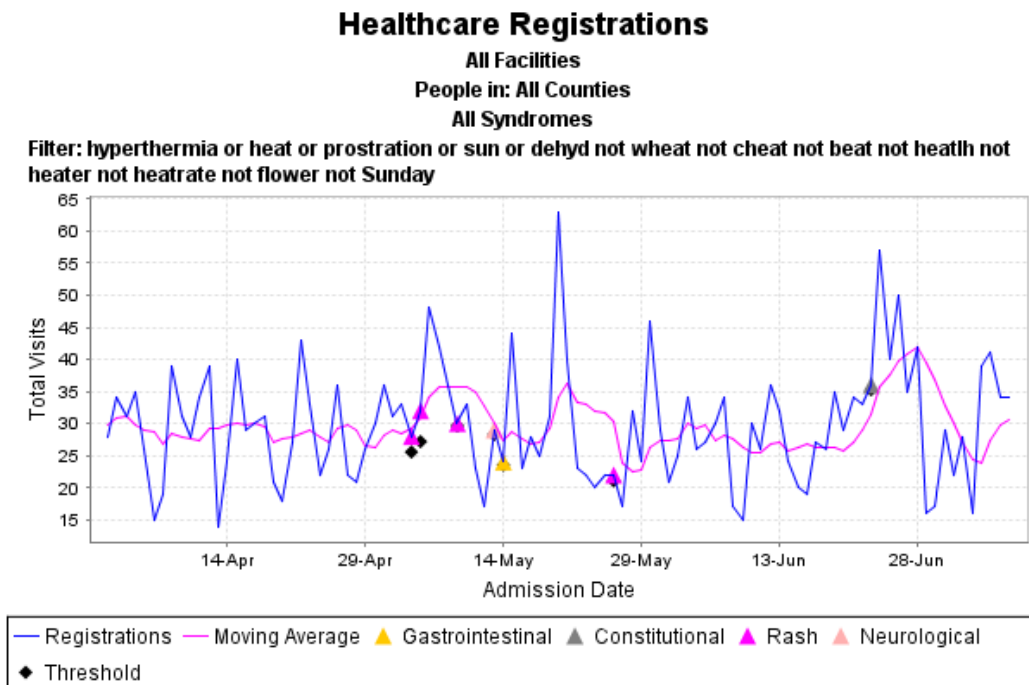
Heat-related illness complaints were categorized into one of three syndromes based on the chief complaint.

- Sun-associated: sunburn, sun poisoning, sunscreen reactions
- Heat-associated: heat exhaustion, heat stroke, heat reaction
- Dehydration

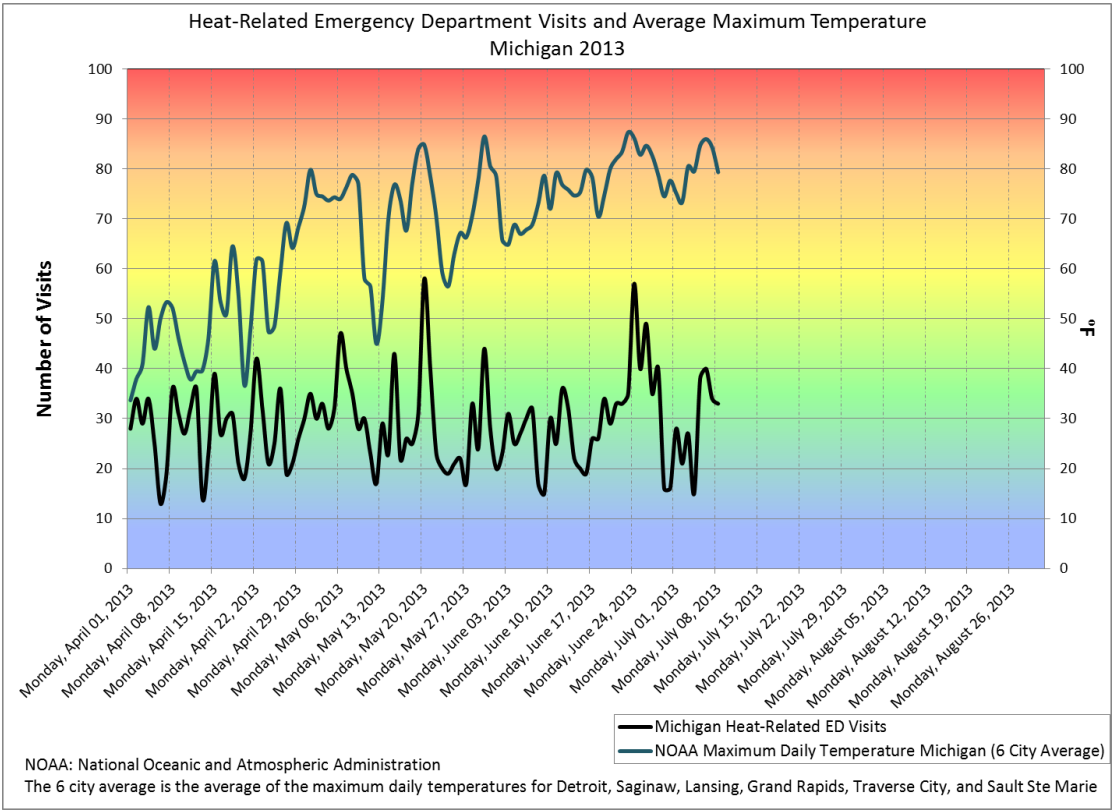
*Note: Due to the nature of categorizing ED complaint data, these visits do not represent all potential cases of heat-related illness. These data may also represent non-heat-related illnesses, i.e. dehydration due to other causes. However, the data can be used to describe trends in illness presentations over time.*

### **Data as of July 8, 2013**

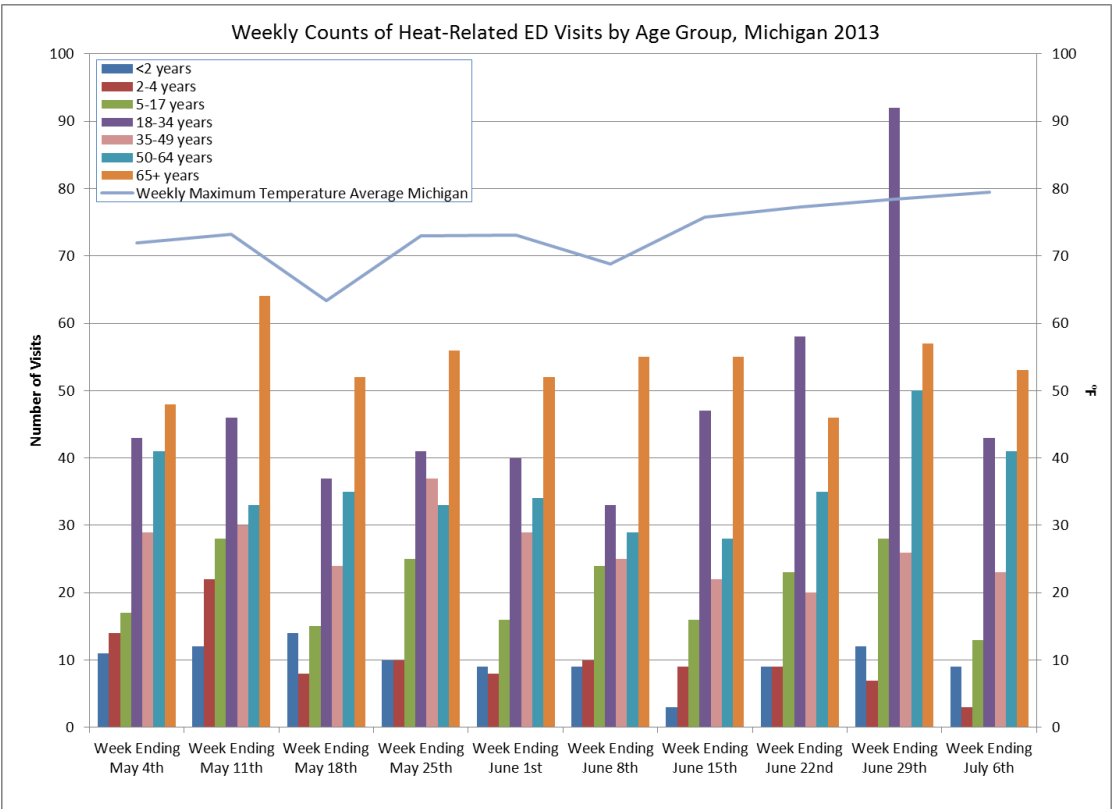
**Figure 1:** Daily Counts of Statewide Heat-Related ED Visits (April 1 – July 8, 2013)



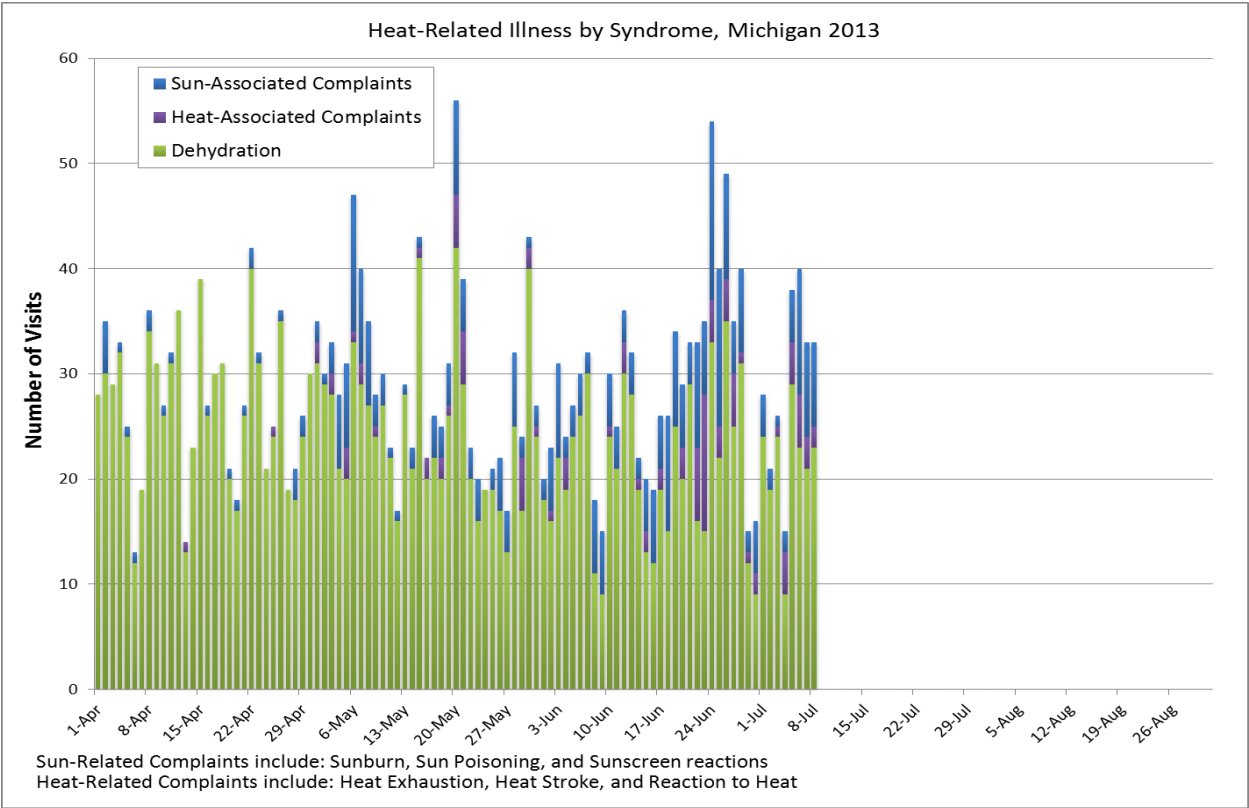
**Figure 2: Statewide Heat-Related ED Visits and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) maximum daily temperature averages for 6 select cities (April 1 – July 8, 2013)**



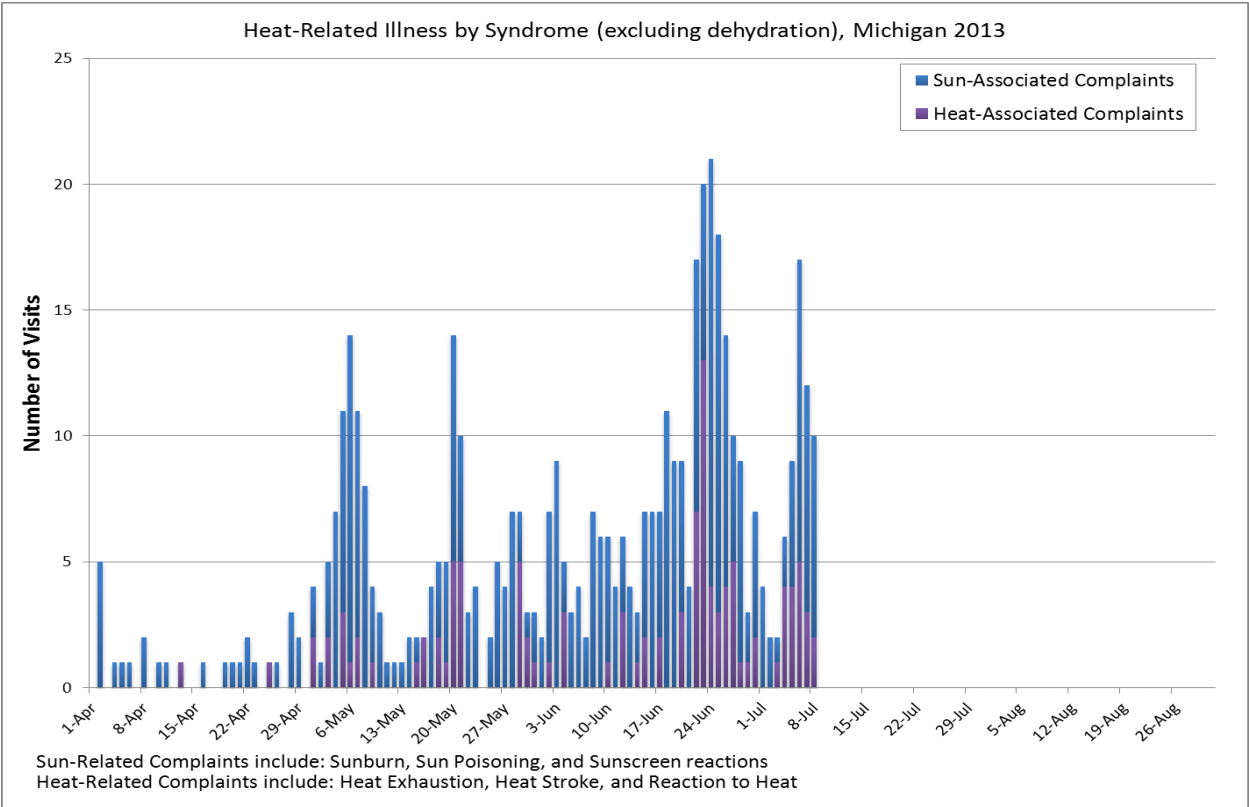
**Figure 3: Age Distribution of Heat-Related ED Visits by Week (April 28 – July 6, 2013)**



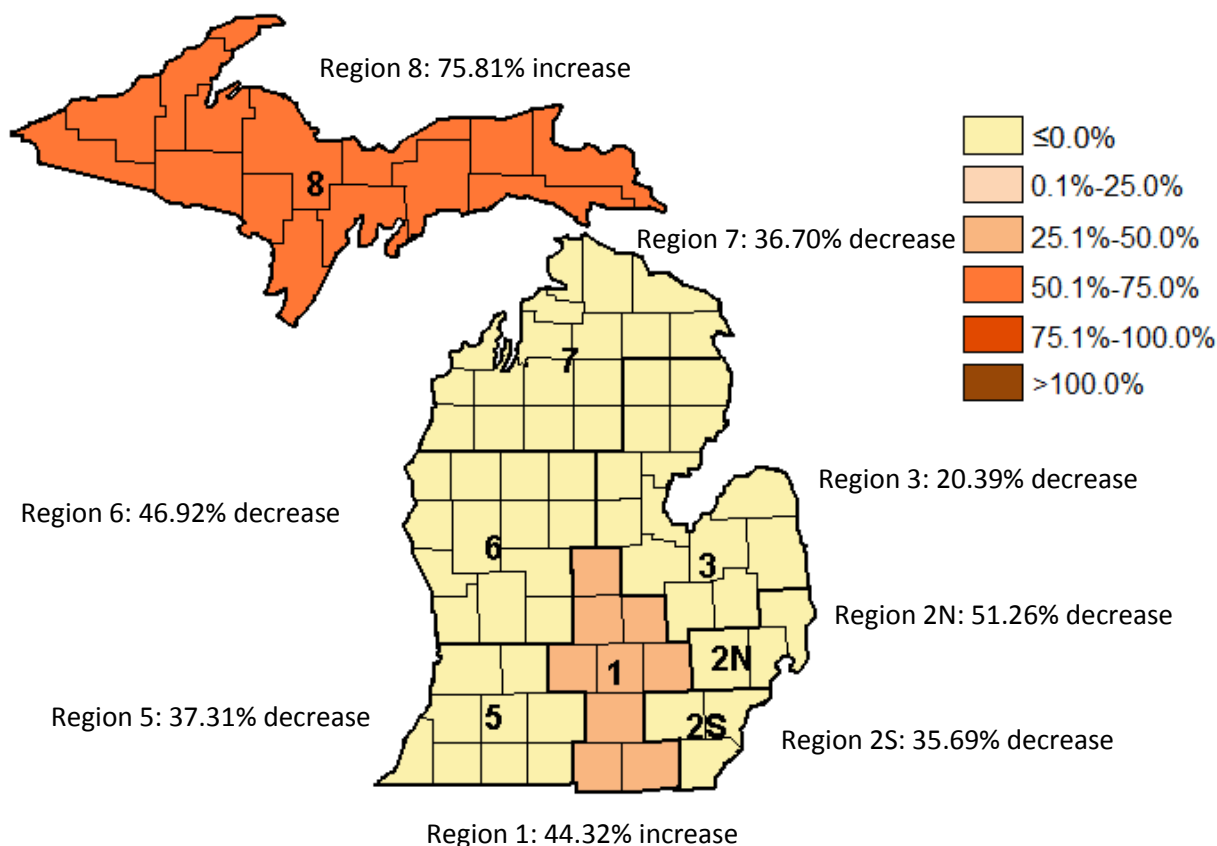
**Figure 4: Statewide Heat-Related ED Visits by syndrome (April 1 – July 8, 2013)**



**Figure 5: Statewide Heat-Related ED Visits by syndrome excluding dehydration (April 1 – July 8, 2013)**



**Figure 6:** Percent Change of Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits by Region: Week Ending July 6, 2013 Compared to Week Ending June 29, 2013



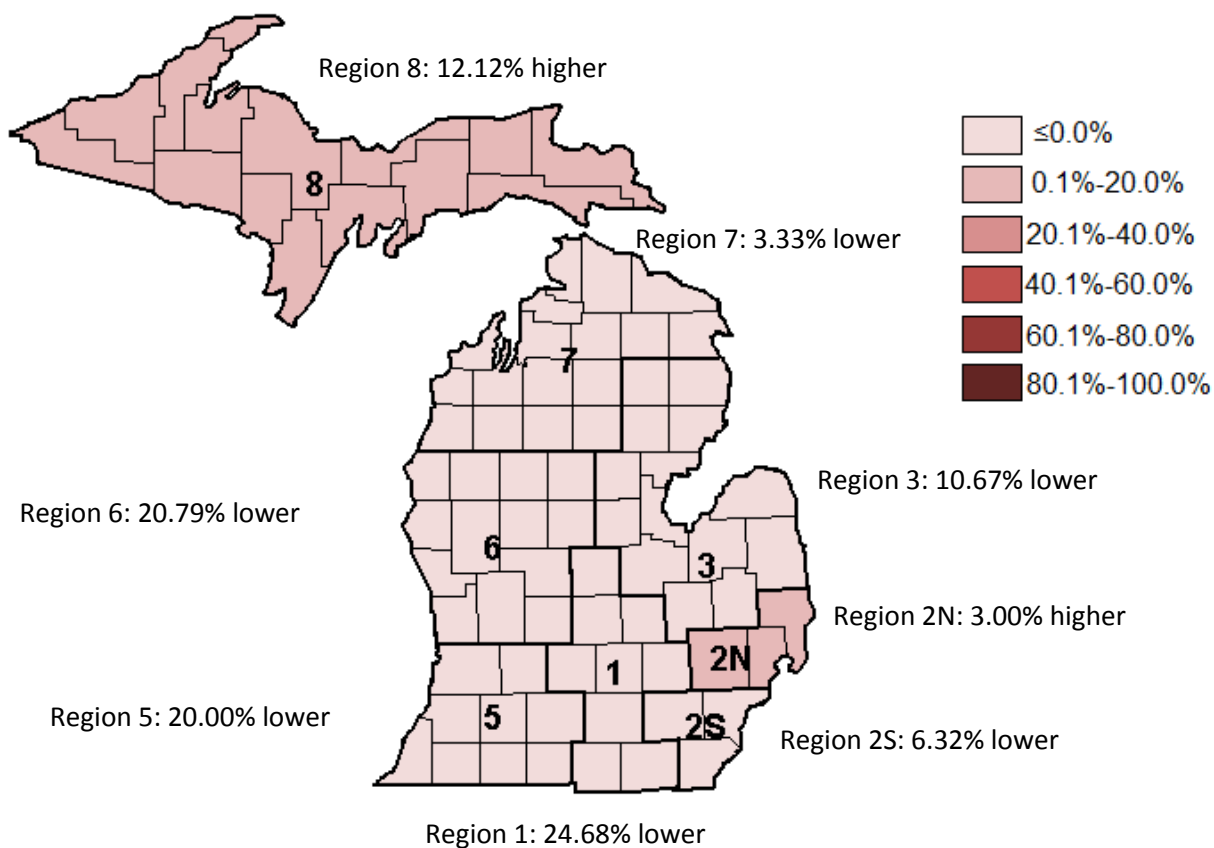
This regional map indicates the percent change in the normalized values of heat-related emergency department complaints from the previous week ending June 29, 2013, to the current week ending July 6, 2013.

**Table 1:** Number and percent of heat-related visits by region

Region	Week Ending June 29		Week Ending July 6		% Change
	# of Visits	% of All ED Visits	# of Visits	% of All ED Visit	
1	22	0.190%	28	0.274%	44.32%
2N	52	0.351%	25	0.171%	-51.26%
2S	71	0.303%	43	0.195%	-35.69%
3	22	0.212%	23	0.169%	-20.34%
5	25	0.250%	15	0.156%	-37.31%
6	59	0.416%	30	0.221%	-46.92%
7	15	0.368%	10	0.233%	-36.70%
8	6	0.321%	11	0.564%	75.81%

*Note: Very low rates are sensitive to small changes in the numerator (heat-related illness visits) and dramatic rate movements should be expected. Fluctuations in the total number of ED visits (denominator) unrelated to heat illnesses can also strongly impact rate comparisons and introduce bias.*

**Figure 7:** Risk Difference of Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits Due to Heat-Associated and Sun-Associated complaints by Region: Week Ending July 6, 2013 Compared to Week Ending June 29, 2013



The regional map indicates the weekly difference in the proportion of sun/heat-associated ED visits out of all heat-related visits (sun/heat-associated and dehydration) from the previous week ending June 29, 2013 to the current week ending July 6, 2013.

**Table 2:** Number and percent of heat-associated and sun-associated visits by region

Region	Week Ending June 29		Week Ending July 6		Risk Difference
	# of Heat-Associated and Sun-Associated Visits	Proportion of All Heat-Related Visits	# of Heat-Associated and Sun-Associated Visits	Proportion of All Heat-Related Visits	
1	7	31.82%	2	7.14%	-24.68%
2N	13	25.00%	7	28.00%	3.00%
2S	21	29.58%	10	23.26%	-6.32%
3	10	45.45%	8	34.78%	-10.67%
5	10	40.00%	3	20.00%	-20.00%
6	28	47.46%	8	26.67%	-20.79%
7	8	53.33%	5	50.00%	-3.33%
8	2	33.33%	5	45.45%	12.12%

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